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**From:** Holst, Linda [holst.linda@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 11/28/2018 3:54:58 AM  
**To:** Thiede, Kurt [thiede.kurt@epa.gov]; Stepp, Cathy [stepp.cathy@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: NPDES/SDS permit for the Minntac Mine

So are you both ok with NPDES having a call with the Tribes to hear their concerns?

Linda

Acting Director | Water Division | EPA Region 5  
(312) 886-6758 | [holst.linda@epa.gov](mailto:holst.linda@epa.gov)

On Nov 27, 2018, at 9:45 PM, Thiede, Kurt <[thiede.kurt@epa.gov](mailto:thiede.kurt@epa.gov)> wrote:

I might also add that they can share their concerns with us at any time.

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**From:** Stepp, Cathy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2018 6:46 PM  
**To:** Holst, Linda <[holst.linda@epa.gov](mailto:holst.linda@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Thiede, Kurt <[thiede.kurt@epa.gov](mailto:thiede.kurt@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: NPDES/SDS permit for the Minntac Mine

I'm inclined to encourage them to share their concerns with the state. I'm certainly open to us having discussion with them down the road on concerns they have about mining, etc but it certainly isn't possible to do by this Thursday. Kurt?

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 27, 2018, at 5:58 PM, Holst, Linda <[holst.linda@epa.gov](mailto:holst.linda@epa.gov)> wrote:

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Linda

Acting Director | Water Division | EPA Region 5  
(312) 886-6758 | [holst.linda@epa.gov](mailto:holst.linda@epa.gov)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Nancy Schuldt <[NancySchuldt@FDLREZ.COM](mailto:NancySchuldt@FDLREZ.COM)>  
**Date:** November 27, 2018 at 5:27:42 PM CST  
**To:** Kevin Pierard -Chief NPDES Programs  
<[Pierard.Kevin@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Pierard.Kevin@epamail.epa.gov)>, "Holst, Linda"  
<[holst.linda@epa.gov](mailto:holst.linda@epa.gov)>, "Wester, Barbara" <[wester.barbara@epa.gov](mailto:wester.barbara@epa.gov)>,  
"Cozza, Daniel" <[cozza.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:cozza.daniel@epa.gov)>, "moody.jonathan@epa.gov"  
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**Cc:** "John Coleman (jcoleman@glifwc.org)" <jcoleman@glifwc.org>, "Esteban Chiriboga" <esteban@glifwc.org>, Ann McCammon\_Soltis <amsoltis@glifwc.org>, Margaret Watkins <mwatkins@grandportage.com>, "Darren Vogt (dvogt@1854treatyauthority.org)" <dvogt@1854treatyauthority.org>, "tkaspar@1854treatyauthority.org" <tkaspar@1854treatyauthority.org>, "Sean Copeland" <SeanCopeland@FDLREZ.COM>, Wayne Dupuis <WayneDupuis@FDLREZ.COM>

**Subject: RE: NPDES/SDS permit for the Minntac Mine**

Kevin and all:

I appreciated seeing the comments and concerns that John Coleman submitted earlier today on MPCA's revised NPDES permit for the US Steel Minntac tailings basin. This 'updated' permit has certainly been a long time in coming, but MPCA still does not, from my perspective, adequately address the basic Clean Water Act deficiencies that we have extensively commented on – and requested consultation on – since about 2006 if I recall correctly. Additionally, Fond du Lac and Grand Portage requested an enforcement intervention on this facility back in 2011, I believe, and the Bands still have not received a response from Region 5 on how that was addressed or resolved.

We would like to request, if not formal consultation, an opportunity to discuss this proposed permit with EPA Region 5 staff and learn about the agency's perspectives on the permit conditions and the apparently institutionalized lack of compliance with state water quality standards for downstream waters. Could we schedule a teleconference for Thursday, November 29? I believe MPCA was offering the agency a 15 day review period, which ends this week. But I would still appreciate the chance to have dialog with EPA staff about the facility that represents "Ground Zero" for Minnesota tribes' effort to improve CWA regulation and enforcement on an industry that has adversely affected and degraded significant treaty protected resources.

Thank you for your consideration,  
*Nancy Schuldt*  
*Water Projects Coordinator*  
*Fond du Lac Environmental Program*  
*1720 Big Lake Road*  
*Cloquet, MN 55720*  
*218.878.7110*